

Meeting Minutes

Meridian Transportation Commission

Monday, January 5, 2026

Council Chambers – Meridian City Hall • 33 East Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

☒ David Ballard

☒ Walter Steed

☐ Zach Shoemaker

☒ Ryan Lancaster

☒ Stephen Lewis

☒ Tracy Hopkins

☒ Jared Smith

☒ Tom LeClaire

☒ Advik Bansal

EX-OFFICIO

☒ Kelly Bruner (ACHD)

☒ Austin Miller (COMPASS)

☒ Miranda Carson (WASD)

☒ Kate Dahl (VRT)

☒ Justin Price (ITD)

OTHERS PRESENT

☒ Sgt. Morgan Carter (Police)

☒ Tishra Murray (Legal)

☒ Brian McClure (Com. Dev.)

☒ Caleb Hood (Com. Dev.)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Steed proposed a change to the agenda moving ITEM 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026 up to ITEM 2. Then proceeding with the agenda as posted.

Action: No action taken

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, December 1, 2025

Motion to approve by Commissioner Ballard, with second from Commissioner Lancaster.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

2. INFORMATION: Staff Transportation Project Tracking

- Commission Chair Walter Steed stated he dislikes the new project tracking format but understands the reason for the change. Steed requested that Community Development staff emphasize only meaningful project changes using a walkthrough style, rather than listing every project monthly. Field observations of weather delays on Eagle Road including the Amity / Lake Hazel development and Ustick Road 10 Mile / Black Cat Improvements were discussed. Staff noted lane openings, roundabout function, retaining wall construction, canal wing wall installation, and congestion impacts. Caleb Hood mentioned more effort to highlight major milestones in future memos and acknowledged Excel formatting limitations, committing to call out key updates clearly in both packets.

3. INFORMATION: ACHD CIP / Impact Fee Update

- Caleb Hood presented that The Ada County Highway District Commission approved the 2025–2045 Capital Improvements Plan and a new countywide Impact Fee Ordinance on December 3, 2025. The updated ordinance replaces the previously evaluated multi-zone model with a single countywide impact fee zone, a change strongly supported by the City of Meridian and later endorsed by most public testimony. The update reflects the first substantial recalculation of fees in many years, correcting prior underestimation of infrastructure costs that left impact fee collections insufficient to cover development's share of growth-driven transportation improvements.
- Beginning March 1, 2026, the single-family residential impact fee increases from \$3,500 to \$5,800 per unit. Multi-family residential also pays a flat fee, while all other commercial and business categories are assessed by square footage and estimated trip-generation impact using the ITE Trip Generation Manual. Caleb Hood provided examples illustrating fee scaling by use, noting that large retail uses such as grocery or big-box stores generate greater fee impact than low trip professional offices. The fees represent development's fair share of growth, ensuring taxpayers are not subsidizing impact eligible portions of future roadway expansion and associated infrastructure driven by new construction.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

4. ACTION: Election of Officers for 2026

- The nomination of Tom LeClaire to Commission Chair was stated to be automatic due to bylaws passed by City Council in December. Commissioner Lancaster nominated Walter Steed for Commission Chair

Action: Commissioner Ballard motioned that the two nominations for Commission Chair were Tom LeClaire and Walter Steed. Commission vote for chair was held with a result of 4-2 in favor of Walter Steed for Commission Chair.

- Commissioner Ballard nominated Tom LeClaire to Commission Vice Chair. No other nominations for Commission Vice Chair were brought forward.

Action: Commission vote for Vice Chair was held with a result of 6-0 in favor of Tom LeClair for Commission Vice Chair. Commission Chair Walter Steed abstained

5. INFORMATION: ACHD Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) Program

- This agenda item was added at the request of the commission to revisit an earlier ACHD memo regarding a safety timing pilot at the Meridian and Ustick intersection. ACHD representative Kelly Bruner and Community Development staff Brian McClure both provided clarification. Bruner explained that LPI gives pedestrians a 3–7 second head start to enter the crosswalk before vehicle greens begin, improving pedestrian visibility and safety. McClure added that the program was proposed to be pedestrian

actuated rather than default-on, meaning the signal delay only engages when a pedestrian presses the crossing button.

- Commissioner Ryan Lancaster asked if pedestrian crash impacts are being measured locally. Brian McClure responded that national implementations show 13% reductions in vehicle / pedestrian crashes, but data would need confirmation from traffic operations. Hood confirmed the pilot performed well enough that ACHD plans to expand the timing approach to more intersections.

6. INFORMATION: ACHD 27-31 Five Year Plan Unofficial Kick-off and Schedule Overview.

- Caleb Hood presented kickoff for the 2027–2031 ACHD 5-Year Plan was issued on January 5, with Meridian’s list of project priorities due to ACHD by March 18. To meet this deadline, the Transportation Commission’s prioritization subcommittee chaired by Commissioner Smith with Commissioners Lewis, Lancaster, and Hopkins will convene in mid to late January to develop draft recommendations for consideration at the February 2 Commission meeting. There was an expressed preference to schedule the first meeting early enough to allow time for a potential second subcommittee meeting before February 2 if consensus is not reached initially. Commissioners also asked whether ACHD could provide an updated Level of Service map to inform prioritization, and staff committed to requesting this from ACHD.

7. INFORMATION: Ex-Officio Updates

- ACHD – Kelly Bruner confirmed the updated impact fee ordinance. It was also reported that new ACHD headquarters building would be holding an open house on Wednesday January 7th, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.
- COMPASS – Austin Miller reported that COMPASS is working on a regional Resilience Improvement Plan which will prioritize capital investment to strengthen transportation resiliency. the Regional Waterway Pathway Plan evaluating pathway connectivity opportunities for pathways along waterways, both plans have a projected completion time of Spring 2026. Mr. Miller also reported a newly kicked-off effort to develop a deployment plan for leading pedestrian intervals. Mr. Miller also reported two milestones from the December Compass Board meetings. approval of the Carbon Reduction Strategy and High-Capacity Transit Planning & Environmental Linkages Study submitted in November, enabling formal adoption at the February board meeting.
- West Ada School District – Miranda Carson reported two coordinated items with ACHD. Meridian Middle School, bus pickup has been moved back onto campus for better circulation and ACHD and the district are adjusting existing street light flasher timing, so it runs only during peak lunch hours which is about 15 minutes when lunch starts and 15 minutes when students return, rather than staying on for the full lunch period.
- VRT – Kate Dahl reports no updates from VRT

- ITD – Technical difficulties, no updates provided
- Meridian Police Department – Sergeant Morgan Carter reported beginning in June 2025, four motor officers were reassigned to directed patrols focused exclusively on speeding enforcement, responding to frequent public complaints about speeding in Meridian. Sgt. Carter stated he is hoping to compile results covering June 2025 through January 1, 2026, including total tickets issued and whether crashes have decreased for a future meeting.
- Meridian Legal – Tishra Murray reports no updates from Legal

8. INFORMATION: Staff Communications

- Staff highlighted several updates including a joint City Council and Ada County Highway District meeting Tuesday January 13th, 2026, at 4:30 PM at Meridian City Hall where ACHD is expected to present 2026 project priorities and active construction updates. Staff also announced a leadership transition in which Dave Miles, formerly the mayor's chief of staff, became the new Director of Community Development. Kendall Nagy, previously overseeing Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition efforts within the Police Department, moved to Chief of Staff.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

9. Stratford to Touchmark Feasibility Study Update

10. Pine Ave, Black Cat to Ten Mile – Speeding Concerns

11. Union 93 development project on Broadway Ave across from Meridian City Hall.

12. ACHD Master Street Map Changes – Arterial Corridor Preservation (Cherry Lane)

13. East 3rd Street Extension Alignment

NEXT MEETING - February 2, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for approval by Commissioner Hopkins with second by Commissioner Ballard to adjourn.

Action: Approved, all ayes.

(AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)